

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 976 - SB 1214

March 7, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Adds “federally qualified health centers” to current healthcare settings in which licensed and registered dental hygienists may engage in preventive dental care under the general supervision of a dentist through written protocol. Defines “teledentistry” as the use of information by technology and telecommunications for dental care, consultation, education, and public awareness in the same manner as authorized for telemedicine and telehealth. Authorizes teledentistry as a means to provide a dental examination prior and subsequent to the hygienist engaging in the provision of preventive dental care.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013283): Deletes all language in the original bill. Defines “teledentistry” as the delivery of dental health care and patient consultation through the use of telehealth systems and technologies. Authorizes dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants to utilize the practice of teledentistry. Any use of teledentistry is required to be provided in accordance with the rules of the Board of Dentistry.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-7-1002, telehealth services, including store-and-forward telemedicine services are currently required to be covered by a health insurance policy offered by a licensed health insurance entity in this state, including plans administered by the Division of Health Care Finance and Administration (HCFA).
- Healthcare services providers are required to be reimbursed at a rate consistent with what the health insurance policy or contract provides for with in-person encounters for the same service, whether provided by a health insurance provider in-network or out-of-network.

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- Based on information provided by HCFA, telehealth services are covered under TennCare, CoverKids, and AccessTN. The provisions of the bill will not significantly affect current services.
- Both carriers of the healthcare plans administered by the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Benefits Administration, currently cover telehealth services; therefore, this bill as amended will not impact the state sponsored health plans.
- The provisions of the bill as amended will not significantly affect the oversight or regulatory functions of the Department of Health.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over any two year period. The Board of Dentistry had a surplus of \$220,760 in FY13-14, a surplus of \$307,396 in FY14-15, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$4,025,076 on June 30, 2015.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb